

The *Ladies' Home Journal*, for May, publishes a table giving the percentage of alcohol contained in a number of the more common so-called "patent medicines," or **ALCOHOL IN** nostrums, taken from the Massachusetts State Board Analyst. This we print on page 185. The editor of the *Journal* gives a scathing rebuke to the old Women's Christian Temperance Union and to most of the theologic press for permitting the wholesale consumption and advertising of these murderous compounds. There is probably not a single doctor in the land who does not know of at least one person who is ignorantly or innocently consuming more or less alcohol through the medium of one or another of these deadly compounds. Is it not our positive duty to warn our patients or our friends of what they are doing? Of the fact that they are simply cultivating the liquor habit? Think of the pregnant woman, or the young mother nursing her child, who is at the same time submitting that innocent child to the influence of large quantities of alcohol, taken in the bottles and bottles of this stuff? How many thousands of women are ruining themselves and their homes by taking to alcohol through the medium of Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound (alcohol), or Hood's Sarsaparilla (alcohol), or Peruna (alcohol). This table we have had printed on slips and these will be furnished to any physician or pharmacist in the state who will ask for them. They can be handed, with or without comment, to any one who you know is a victim of the nostrum habit. Drop a line to the JOURNAL office and we will send you some of these slips, which you can give to your patients. It is your plain duty as a man and a physician to do all that you can to put a stop to this traffic in life and honor.

The Medical Society of the State of California publishes the only official Register and Directory of physicians in California, once a year. The State **UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATIONS.** Society has nothing to do with any other "directory" or "register," does not aid or countenance the publication of any such things, and desires particularly to warn the members of the Society and the advertisers in the Society's publications against any possible misunderstanding. We make this statement for the reason that certain statements have come to our knowledge which, to say the least, are misleading. There are at least two alleged "directories" of physicians in course of preparation at the present time. One of these proposes to confine itself to members of the Society, and to publish the photograph of each member; whether for a consideration or not, we do not know. Please do not for a moment be lead into

believing that the Society has anything to do with these ventures, or approves or countenances them. All the business of the Society is done *through the publication office*, and under the direct control of the Council; no commercial or publication house has anything whatever to do with the official publications of the Society. There may be errors in our official register, but in comparison with any of the alleged "directories" which have come to our notice, it is a lasting monument of absolute perfection!

Digitalis—or rather the commercial preparations of the drug—have been found wanting by a member of the Society, whose communication on the subject will be found on page 184. The JOURNAL wishes to call particular attention to this matter and ask that those who have had experience, clinically, with digitalis in one or more of its commercial preparations, will be good enough to advise us of the result noted from such use. Many times has question arisen as to the value or worthlessness of the average tincture or fluid extract of digitalis. The writer of the letter in question does not underestimate the importance of the matter; it may mean life or death to the patient. The opinion which he expresses is one held by many physicians of experience, but we should like very much to hear from members of the Society specifically. The fault may be with the crude drug, with the manufacturer or with the dispenser, if fault there be. But if, in the opinion of those who have had much experience with these preparations, they are unreliable, then indeed we should know it, and as soon as possible. Please communicate your views to the JOURNAL for the benefit of your fellow-members in the Society.

At the May meeting of the San Francisco County Medical Society, amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the society were introduced, which, if they are adopted, will bring the law of the county society into line with that recently adopted by the State Society. The word "regular" is eliminated from the document in question. The proposed amendments will be found published elsewhere in the JOURNAL and should receive the careful attention of all members of all county societies. The method of election is peculiar to this county society and was adopted several years ago for numerous reasons. All county societies now have the privilege of electing to membership any legally qualified physician who does not practice nor claim to practice, nor advertise himself as being connected with any special and particular school of medicine.